

JUDGE BLAIR AND THE KATONAH POST-OFFICE.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

OPENING OF NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.
Sir: The announcement that the Postmaster-General has, without cause, removed Mr. Benedict, his own appointee and one most acceptable to the Katonah District, and has appointed in his stead Mr. Whitlock, a liquor dealer, against whom the people are strongly protestant, will be received in this city and throughout the country with equal surprise and regret, and we might perhaps safely add indignation. The equality of right that underlies our institutions, gives to every governmental question that involves a great principle an importance that commands it to all citizens, however small comparatively may be the interest that in the first instance may chance to be affected. Especially is this the case with the Post-Office Department, which was created for the comfort, convenience and benefit of the people themselves; and any deliberate decision of the Postmaster-General that wilfully ignores these great ends of the Department, and wantonly sacrifices the interests and rights of the community in any district, however insignificant, directly threatens the interests and rights of the people in every post-office district of the Republic. In the Katonah case a very large majority of the residents of the district, entitled to a voice in the post-office question, and more than three-fourths of the tax-payers who appear on the memorials, protested against the removal of Benedict, who had been appointed on the recommendation of the Hon. A. F. Dickinson, Mr. John Jay, Mr. Jared D. Powell, and others, with the approval of the member for Westchester, as being the best Postmaster they had ever had, and one of whose admirable arrangement and management they were justly proud. They objected especially to the appointment of Whitlock as a liquor dealer, on grounds of public policy and private comfort; and next, they objected to him personally, as having been, while Postmaster under Buchanan, so regardless of his duties, according to the affidavits and letters filed with the Department, as to allow the managers of the companies under their charge to handle the mails by strangers, with the material result of moneyed letters being lost, private letters being opened and detained, and newspapers being constantly stolen, until the sufferers in two cases were compelled to direct their letters to another office. On the ground of the liquor business alone, the women of Katonah spoke as in such case ought to speak; and on the back of their petition was inscribed a note to Judge Blair, in these words, by President Lincoln:

"I am impressed with the belief that there should be no change in the case named herein, and especially if it be true, that by a change the office is to go to a place where liquor is regularly sold." A. LINCOLN.

Whether or not Judge Blair regards Mr. Lincoln as unfit to express an opinion in such a case, because he was once a Whig, and has never voted the Democratic ticket in his life, does not appear, but Judge Blair has done the very thing that the President was impressed with the belief, and the whole country will share that impression, ought not to have been done, and to-day, in Katonah, the power and influence of the National Government are openly on the side of Rum, and the men and women of the neighborhood are compelled to go for their letters and newspapers to a place where liquor is regularly sold.

But the President was not the only warning to the Postmaster-General. His best friends in New-York—those to whom he has been the most indebted, and who had the best right to advise him—told him frankly that the effort to effect such a change in defiance of the will of the neighborhood, no matter by what clique of politicians the act was urged, "was calculated if not intended to impair the confidence of the people in the Administration"; and such men as Mayor Odyphé, Hiram Barney, John J. Cian, John F. Butterworth, Morris Ketchum, Delafield Smith Moses H. Grinnell, R. M. Blanchard, and Isaac Sherman, earnestly recommended him as a man of right and duty and interest, to regard the wishes and interests of the Katonah District, and have Mr. Benedict in office so long as he was acceptable to the people, and faithful to the Administration.

The misplacement of a loyal Republican and model Postmaster and the reappointment of a man whose maladministration of the post-office under Buchanan was every way worthy of his traitorous chief, and a liquor dealer to boot, is not only a crime but a blunder, and the fact will become more and more apparent. The farmers about Katonah are not accustomed to submit to dictation, and are now more than ever impressed with the conviction that their own safety and the stability of the Republic depends upon each community's maintaining its own rights against encroachment. The gentlemen who called the first meeting to protest against Benedict's removal—such men as James Hoyt, Walter S. Lyon, Matia Harris, Newman C. Lyon, Rev. A. C. Gallatin, Oliver Green, Jr., Harvey W. Smith, with the Powells, Meads, Newmans, Millers, Tods, Haight, Putneys, Knape, and other substantial citizens, are not likely to let the master rest till this wrong is righted, and no matter how powerful the political clique by which it has been perpetrated. They well know that in contending for their own rights, they are contending for those of the people in every post-office district, and that from every quarter will come a demand that their rights shall be respected, and the displaced Postmaster be restored. The determined feeling already aroused throughout Westchester recalls the stirring ballad:

"And shall Treason die?
And shall Truth and
Ten thousand honest boys
Will know the reason why?"

A meeting is present to be held to receive the report of the Committee appointed some time since to present the protest to the Postmaster-General, and we understand that their report will show, by extracts from letters filed with the Department, that the people of Katonah have been defeated by a coalition extending from Westchester to Albany, between certain Republicans who have heretofore been supposed true to the party, and even claimed to be its leaders in Westchester, and certain avowed opponents of the Administration—whose fidelity to Pro-Slavery dogmas, to say nothing of Secession sympathies, there is never a doubt; and that these two classes have from differing motives, but with a common object, united to displace Benedict and appoint Whitlock. We are advised that among letters addressed by them to the Hon. Edward Haight, M. C., are some showing on the one hand the proslavery bias of these pseudo-Republians, if he would secure the appointment of Whitlock, and on the other the assurance given him by open Democrats that no appointment could be more serviceable to their party. If this is clearly proven the Republicans of Westchester will take it, will have something to say in the matter, as well as the people of Katonah, March 19, 1862.

KATONAH.—We refer lovers of good fruit to the advertisement of J. Knox of Pittsburgh. Mr. Knox has fifty acres of strawberries under cultivation, and expects to send a car load a day to the New-York market.

The Rev. Dr. Thompson will to-morrow evening discuss the doctrine of "The unity of mankind, or all men sprung from one blood," at the Broadway Tabernacle Church.

Mr. Richard O'Gorman will lecture upon Oliver Goldsmith, before the Catholic Library Association, at Irving Hall, on Monday evening.

THE SHIP EKARAGE IN DISTRESS.

On Friday morning, reports came that the steamer *Ekarage*, bound from Liverpool to New-York, had struck a rock off the coast of Ireland, and was sinking. The ship was in sight at 10 a.m., and was last seen at 1 p.m. The crew numbered 120, and the passengers 100. The ship was bound for New-York, and was en route to Liverpool. The crew numbered 120, and the passengers 100. The ship was bound for New-York, and was en route to Liverpool.

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